

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A display system for a vehicle, which presents to a user a plurality of menu items respectively corresponding to functions of devices/equipment mounted on the vehicle by displaying an operation menu including some of the menu items on a screen of a display of the system, and allows the user to select one of the displayed menu items to perform the function thereof, the system comprising:

an input unit to be operated by the user;

an operation ~~[[input]]~~ capability judgment unit which judges user's operation capability of the input unit ~~to input command~~;

a storage unit which stores hierarchically structured first menu information, the first menu information comprising a plurality of the operation menus respectively registered in a plurality of tiers of the first menu information;

a driving load determination unit which determines a driving load on the user who drives the vehicle; and

a display control unit which determines the operation menu to be displayed on the screen, using the first menu information or second menu information having a limited number of tiers as compared with the first menu information according to the driving load on the user determined by the driving load determination unit,

wherein the display control unit determines, based upon the operation capability of the user judged by the operation ~~[[input]]~~ capability judgment unit, a timing to shift from a process of displaying the operation menu using the first menu information to a process of displaying the operation menu using the second menu information.

2. Cancelled

3. (Currently Amended) A display system according to claim 1, wherein
the operation [[input]] capability judgment unit monitors operation time of the user to judge the operation capability of the user, and changes the number of tiers of the respective first and second menu information, based on the operation capability.
4. (Previously Presented) A display system according to claim 1, wherein
the display control unit allows a continuous operation of the input unit if the number of remaining operation steps is less than a predetermined step number at a point where it is judged, based upon the driving load, that the process of displaying the operation menu using the first menu information will be shifted to the process of displaying the operation menu using the second menu information, while the input unit is operated.
5. (Original) A display system according to claim 4, wherein
the number of tiers of the second menu information is increased when the user frequently carries out the continuous operation of the input unit.
6. (Original) A display system according to claim 4, wherein
an amount of steering wheel operation is recorded while the operation menu using the second menu information is displayed, and the number of tiers of the second menu information is decreased in a case where the amount of steering wheel operation is large.
7. (Currently Amended) A display system according to claim 1, wherein
the operation [[input]] capability judgment unit judges the operation capability of the user by monitoring an operation time thereof while the operation menu is being displayed, and records an average operation time and amount of steering wheel operation while the operation menu is being displayed using the second menu information, thereby calculating a limit steering

wheel operation amount defined as an amount of steering wheel operation where the average operation time exceeds a predetermined value, and stops displaying the operation menu in a case where an amount of steering wheel operation exceeds the limit steering wheel operation amount.

8. (Previously Presented) A display system according to claim 1, wherein

the operation menu using the second menu information is displayed while an amount of steering wheel operation is small, and when the amount thereof is increased before an operation step of the operation menu ends, the display control unit allows to continue only one step operation in the event the number of remaining operation steps is one.

9. (Currently Amended) A display system according to claim 1, wherein

the operation [[input]] capability judgment unit comprises a driving load estimation unit that estimates a driving load of the user,

the first menu information is a full menu information that comprises a selection operation menu including a plurality of selection menu items for selecting functions of the vehicle-mounted devices, registered to a plurality of tiers; and an execution operation menu including a plurality of execution menu items for executing functions of the vehicle-mounted devices registered in a tier lower than the plurality of the tiers of the selection operation menu,

the second menu information is a modified menu information that is produced by modifying the full menu information, and

the display control unit comprises a menu production unit that produces the modified menu information, wherein the display control unit displays the operation menu by using the full menu information or the modified menu information based upon the estimated driving load.

10. (Original) A display system according to claim 9, wherein

the menu production unit produces the modified menu information so that the menu item that is selected more frequently is displayed with higher priority, based upon an operation history information of each of the selection menu items and the execution menu items.

11. (Original) A display system according to claim 10, wherein

the menu production unit produces operation history information for each menu item divided by a weekday, a holiday or an hour belt, thereby to produce the modified menu information such that the menu item that is selected more frequently corresponding to the weekday, the holiday or the hour belt is displayed with higher priority.

12. (Original) A display system according to claim 9, wherein

the menu production unit subdivides the selection menu item that is used frequently and produces the modified menu information comprising the subdivided selection menu item transferred to a upper tier.

13. (Original) A display system according to claim 9, wherein

the menu production unit produces the modified menu information comprising a selection integrated menu item that integrates a plurality of different menu items.

14. (Previously Presented) A display system according to claim 10, wherein

the operation history information includes cumulative values indicating how many times each menu item is selected, and

the menu production unit sets a learning coefficient that alters a rate increase of the cumulative value for each of the selection menu item and the execution menu item, and alters the operation history information of each menu item based upon the learning coefficient.

15. (Previously Presented) A display system according to claim 14, wherein
the menu production unit produces the selection integrated menu item that integrates a plurality of different menu items, and sets the learning coefficient so that the rate of increase of the cumulative value of the menu item in a lower tier to the selection integrated menu item becomes smaller than that of the menu item in a lower tier to the selection menu item contained in the full menu information.
16. (Previously Presented) A display system according to claim 14, wherein
the menu production unit sets the learning coefficient so that the rate of increase of the cumulative value gets smaller as time elapses after each menu item has been selected.
17. (Previously Presented) A display system according to claim 14, wherein
the menu production unit sets the learning coefficient so that the rate of increase of the cumulative value gets larger as the estimated driving load is larger.
18. (Currently Amended) An information display system for a vehicle comprising:
a display device configured to display an operation menu including a plurality of menu items corresponding to respective functions of vehicle-mounted devices;
an input unit configured to be operated by a user and to allow the user to select the menu items of the operation menu displayed by the display device; and
a controller comprising:
an operation ~~[[input]]~~ capability judgment unit configured to judge an operation capability of the user with respect to the input unit ~~to input command~~;
a storage unit configured to store first menu information comprising menu items of a plurality of the operation menus organize in a plurality of tiers;

a driving load determination unit configured to determine a driving load on the user who drives the vehicle; and

a display determination unit configured to determine the operation menu to be displayed by selecting the first menu information or second menu information including a less number of tiers comparing with the first menu information according to the driving load on the user determined by the driving load determination unit,

wherein the display determination unit determines, based upon the operation capability of the user judged by the operation [[input]] capability judgment unit, a timing to shift from a process of displaying the operation menu selected from the first menu information to a process of displaying the operation menu selected from the second menu information.